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Assemblée des États parties au Statut de Rome

Septième Session plénière Coopération

Jeudi, 5 décembre 2024

Ouverture de la session plénière par la Présidente de l'AEP Mme Päivi Kaukoranta

Excellences, distingués participants,

C'est un grand honneur de m'adresser à vous aujourd'hui sur le thème crucial de la coopération et du rôle essentiel que les États Parties et l'Assemblée doivent jouer pour soutenir la Cour pénale internationale (CPI).

Le succès, l'indépendance, et l'intégrité de la CPI reposent sur la collaboration et l'engagement des États Parties. La Cour ne peut remplir son mandat sans une coopération efficace dans plusieurs domaines clés. Aujourd'hui, je souhaite souligner **certains de ces domaines**, notamment (i) la coopération judiciaire ; (ii) les accords volontaires et (iii) le soutien politique.

Ladies and gentlemen,



The Court's ability to investigate and prosecute depends on timely and effective cooperation from States Parties. **Judicial cooperation** is key for numerous and critical aspects of the Court's work, including collection of evidence and case building. Facilitating access to national legal frameworks and ensuring that national systems can comply with ICC requests is crucial to this end.

Despite encountering difficulties, the Court has made progress in **tracking and freezing assets**, but States Parties must step up with decisive action to fully support the Court in executing its mandate. Continuing to strengthen national legal frameworks, responding swiftly to requests for assistance, and designating national focal points will greatly further enhance the Court's efforts to recover assets, resulting in more effective proceedings and an increased capacity to hold perpetrators to account.

In this context, an important achievement of the cooperation facilitation is the **cooperation platform**, developed together with the Court and the ASP Secretariat. States Parties are encouraged to actively engage with this secured interactive tool designed to share national procedures and best practices in asset identification, freezing, and seizure.

Additionally, **witness relocation, interim and final release, as well as enforcement of sentences** agreements are crucial. I commend Poland for signing an enforcement agreement with the Court on Tuesday. By signing the agreement, Poland has demonstrated a concrete commitment to the Court



and its mandate, encouraging other States Parties to follow its steps in the near future.

While significant achievements have been made, the ICC is increasingly confronted with challenges it was neither designed nor prepared to address, ranging from **sanctions and other coercive measures to cyber-attacks**, all of which not only jeopardize the safety of the Court's personnel, elected officials, but also the security of witnesses and victims. Additionally, **protecting outgoing officials** and their families from potential threats after their departure from the Court is critical.

In this context, the legal framework provided by the **Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the ICC (APIC)** is fundamental. By ratifying the APIC, States Parties provide the Court with a strong legal foundation and necessary protection. I urge all States Parties that have not yet ratified the agreement to do so.

On a final but very important note, **today 30 public arrest warrants** issued by the Court remain outstanding. Prioritizing these warrants and improving coordination between States and the Court is essential. States Parties must address barriers that hinder arrest operations. States Parties must also provide the political and operational support necessary to overcome challenges. Fostering cooperation through diplomatic and political efforts is key to ensuring the execution of the outstanding arrest warrants and with them, the continued success, sustainability, and credibility of the ICC.



In a fragmented world with challenging and evolving geopolitical dynamics, the Court has remained steadfast in its mission. However, **continued political support and tangible cooperation from States Parties** are crucial to enabling the Court to address its vulnerabilities and to prevent its operations from being compromised. The integrity and security of the Court depend on safeguarding its infrastructure, personnel, and independence.

Mesdames et messieurs,

En conclusion, les défis auxquels la CPI fait face sont nombreux, mais ils ne sont pas insurmontables. Son succès dépend directement de l'engagement actif et du soutien des États Parties. Il ne s'agit pas seulement de remplir des obligations, mais de garantir l'avenir de la justice internationale. Nous devons renforcer notre coopération avec la Cour et mettre en place de solides mécanismes pour surmonter ces défis. La CPI - *notre CPI* - incarne notre engagement commun pour la justice et la responsabilité, et ensemble, nous pouvons et devons l'aider à accomplir son mandat.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.
